

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1        1. A method of presenting information on a space-constrained display of a  
2 portable device, the method comprising:
  - 3              associating a first indication on the display with a user-defined external state;
  - 4              establishing a user-defined operation for monitoring the user-defined external
  - 5              state; and
  - 6              updating the first indication on the display in accordance with the monitored  
7              user-defined external state in response to an information encoding  
8              thereof received via a telecommunications network.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-defined external state is one of:  
2              a weather or environmental state;  
3              a system or information status state; and  
4              a news or sports information state.
- 1        3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2              performing the established user-defined operation using a networked  
3              computational service remote from the portable device; and  
4              supplying the information encoding in correspondence with a result of the  
5              performed user-defined operation.
- 1        4. The method of claim 3,  
2              wherein the supplying includes pushing the information encoding to the  
3              portable device via the telecommunications network.
- 1        5. The method of claim 3,  
2              wherein the supplying includes supplying the information encoding to the  
3              portable device via the telecommunications network in response to a  
4              request therefor from the portable device.
- 1        6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 retrieving from a networked computational service remote from the portable  
3 device, an information encoding in correspondence with a result of the  
4 performed user-defined operation.

1 7. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the user-defined external state is selected from amongst a  
3 predetermined set of external states available for monitoring.

1 8. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation includes selecting from  
3 amongst a predetermined set of at least partially-predefined queries.

1 9. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the associating of the first indication with the user-defined external  
3 state is performed without use of the portable device.

1 10. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation is performed without  
3 use of the portable device.

1 11. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein either or both of the associating of the first indication with the user-  
3 defined external state and the establishing of the user-defined operation  
4 are performed via the portable device.

1 12. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the user-defined operation includes a query executable at a networked  
3 computational service remote from the portable device.

1 13. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein in the first indication is a graphical indication.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2 associating a second indication with the user-defined external state, the second  
3 indication providing textual description rendered in response to  
4 selection, at the portable device, of the first indication.

1 15. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display  
3 elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual  
4 indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof, the first  
5 indication corresponding to at least one of the plural visual indications.

1 16. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the plural visual indications exhibit at least two indication states each.

1 17. The method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display  
3 elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual  
4 indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the portable device includes one or more  
2 of:  
3 a phone;  
4 a personal digital assistant;  
5 a pager;  
6 a palm- or handheld-computer;  
7 a digital media player;  
8 a communications-enabled portable device; and  
9 a WAP- or iMode-enabled portable device.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network  
2 transmission and routing facilities include one or more of:  
3 a wireless voice network;  
4 a wireless data network;  
5 a packet-switched data network;  
6 an internet or intranet;

7           a local- or wide-area network; and  
8           a public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

1           20. A portable device comprising:  
2           a space-constrained display including a two-dimensional array of display  
3           elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual  
4           indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof; and  
5           a communications interface to a telecommunications network, the  
6           communications interface coupled to the space-constrained display and  
7           allowing the portable device to receive information encoding one or  
8           more external states and to update respective ones of the visual  
9           indications based on respective user-defined associations with the  
10           external states.

1           21. The portable device of claim 20,  
2           wherein the external states are user selected and include one or more of  
3           weather status, environmental status, system status, information status,  
4           and news, sports or financial status.

1           22. The portable device of claim 20,  
2           wherein the plural visual indications are grouped based on correspondence of  
3           the associated external states.

1           23. The portable device of claim 20,  
2           wherein the telecommunications network includes one or more of a wireless  
3           voice network, a wireless data network, a packet-switched data  
4           network, an internet or intranet, a local- or wide-area network and a  
5           public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

1           24. The portable device of claim 20,  
2           embodied as one or more of a phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a  
3           palm- or handheld-computer, a digital media player, a  
4           communications-enabled portable device and a WAP- or iMode-  
5           enabled portable device.

- 1           25. A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable  
2 medium, the computer program product comprising:  
3           a first functional sequence executable to establish an association between  
4           plural indications on a display of a portable device and respective user-  
5           defined external states;  
6           a second functional sequence executable to supply via a telecommunications  
7           network an information encoding for update of the indications on the  
8           display in accordance with the user-defined external states.
- 1           26. The computer program product of claim 25,  
2 wherein execution of the first functional sequence further establishes user-  
3           defined operations for monitoring the user-defined external states.
- 1           27. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:  
2           a third functional sequence executable to monitor of the user-defined external  
3           states.
- 1           28. The computer program product of claim 25,  
2 wherein the first and second functional sequences are both executable on a  
3           networked information server that accesses one or more data stores in  
4           which results of monitoring of the user-defined external states are  
5           encoded.
- 1           29. The computer program product of claim 25,  
2 wherein the first functional sequence is embodied at least in part as code  
3           implementing a web page accessible from either or both of the portable  
4           device and a networked computer.
- 1           30. The computer program product of claim 25,  
2 wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of  
3           a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium  
4           and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

- 1       31. An apparatus comprising:  
2       means for presenting a visual indication on a display device;  
3       means for associating, based on a user selection, the visual indication with a  
4               state external to the apparatus; and  
5       means for receiving an information encoding corresponding to the external  
6               state and for updating the visual indication based thereon.
- 1       32. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:  
2       means for ascertaining the external state and for communicating the  
3               information encoding corresponding thereto.

TECHNICAL DRAWINGS